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Ex-Mexico Official Named in Stolen Vehicles Case Fails to Show Up in Court

By ROBERT MONTEMAYOR, *Times Staff Writer*

SAN DIEGO—A bench warrant was issued Monday for the arrest of Miguel Nazar Haro, former Mexican national security chief, when he failed to appear in federal court for arraignment on a car theft conspiracy indictment.

U.S. Magistrate Edward Infante also forfeited the \$200,000 bond under which Nazar Haro had been free since his arrest April 23.

Nazar Haro's lawyer, Harold Rhoden of Los Angeles, was in court and read a statement from his client in which Nazar Haro said, "I leave it to my lawyers to prove that I am innocent."

Rhoden said Nazar Haro will press ahead with the \$11-million libel suit he filed against Time magazine for an article connecting him with the car-theft operation.

Nazar was served with a subpoena last month at Los Angeles International Airport as he prepared to return to Mexico after filing the suit against Time magazine.

Responding to the subpoena, he testified in a San Diego federal grand jury investigation of an \$8.7-million international auto theft ring alleged to have stolen more than 600 expensive cars in the United States for sale in Mexico.

FBI agents arrested him on a warrant moments after his testimony was completed.

Nazar Haro was released the next day after Dennis N. Merrill of the Surety Insurance Co. of California, based in La Habra, furnished his \$200,000 bail. Nazar Haro reportedly returned Mexico with his son.

At the court appearance Monday, Magistrate Infante unsealed a 39-count secret indictment against Nazar Haro and seven other Mexican nationals.

Federal Officers

The grand jury before which he had testified indicted him and the others, all of whom were identified as Mexican federal and state police officers, on charges of conspiracy to defraud and transporting and receiving stolen vehicles.

U.S. Atty. William Kennedy in San Diego was fired by President Reagan April 5 for saying publicly that he had been unable to bring Nazar Haro to trial on the international car theft charges because the former security chief was a CIA contact in Mexico.

Nazar Haro has denied any connection with the CIA.

Meanwhile, the man who prosecuted other alleged members of the auto-theft ring, Assistant U.S. Atty. Doug Schwartz, announced his resignation. Schwartz said Monday he would join the San Francisco law firm of Lillick, McHose & Charles.